

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A spout assembly for dispensing liquid from a nozzle, comprising:

a) a structural conduit including:

i) a first end portion for attaching relative to a nozzle body and a second end portion for dispensing liquid;

ii) an interior passage providing an internal flow path from the first end portion to the second end portion; and

iii) at least one internal sidewall, the internal sidewall including a first sidewall portion with a first cross-sectional dimension, a second sidewall portion with a second cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first cross-sectional dimension, and a transition location between the first and second sidewall portions, wherein the transition location provides for the change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first sidewall portion and the second sidewall portion, the first sidewall portion includes a length at least partially defining a first portion of a substantially straight liquid flow path, wherein the first portion of the substantially straight liquid flow path extends through the transition location without the transition location changing the first portion of the substantially straight liquid flow path and the second sidewall portion includes a length at least partially defining a second portion of the substantially straight liquid flow path, wherein the second portion of the substantially second straight liquid flow path extends through the transition location wherein the transition location changes the second portion of the substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 2. (original) The spout assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second sidewall portions each have a substantially circular cross-sectional shape wherein the first and second cross-sectional dimensions comprise respective diameters of the first and second sidewall portions.

Claim 3. (original) The spout assembly of claim 1, wherein the transition location comprises a third sidewall portion of the internal sidewall that further defines the substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 4. (original) The spout assembly of claim 3, wherein the first and third sidewall portions each have a substantially circular cross-sectional shape.

Claim 5. (original) The spout assembly of claim 4, wherein the substantially circular cross-sectional shape of the first sidewall portion defines a diameter and wherein successive cross sections of the third sidewall portion along the substantially straight liquid flow path define a plurality of substantially circular cross-sectional shapes defining a plurality of successively smaller diameters.

Claim 6. (original) The spout assembly of claim 5, wherein a lower portion of each of the cross-sectional shapes of the first and third sidewall portions at least partially define the substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 7. (original) The spout assembly of claim 1, wherein the second sidewall portion of the interior sidewall includes a substantially straight portion and an angular portion, wherein the angular portion provides an angular orientation between the first sidewall portion and the substantially straight portion of the second sidewall portion.

Claim 8. (original) The spout assembly of claim 1, further comprising a spout adapter mounted with respect to the first end portion of the structural conduit, the spout adapter including

a pressure activated control valve adapted to permit flow of liquid into the spout assembly from a nozzle at a predetermined liquid pressure.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A The spout assembly of claim 8 for dispensing liquid from a nozzle, comprising:

a) a structural conduit including:

i) a first end portion for attaching relative to a nozzle body and a second end portion for dispensing liquid;

ii) an interior passage providing an internal flow path from the first end portion to the second end portion; and

iii) at least one internal sidewall, the internal sidewall including a first sidewall portion with a first cross-sectional dimension, a second sidewall portion with a second cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first cross-sectional dimension, and a transition location between the first and second sidewall portions, wherein the transition location provides for the change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first sidewall portion and the second sidewall portion, the first sidewall portion includes a length at least partially defining a substantially straight liquid flow path, wherein the substantially straight liquid flow path extends through the transition location without the transition location changing the substantially straight liquid flow path; and

b) a spout adapter mounted with respect to the first end portion of the structural conduit, the spout adapter including a pressure activated control valve adapted to permit flow of liquid into the spout assembly from a nozzle at a predetermined liquid pressure, wherein the spout adapter further comprises a venturi channel and an attitude device in fluid communication with the venturi channel, wherein the attitude device comprises a closing body

adapted to close an opening of the venturi channel upon tilting of the spout assembly beyond a predetermined angle.

Claim 10. (original) The spout assembly of claim 9, wherein the attitude device further comprises a bridge to trap the closing body in an interior area of the spout adapter.

Claim 11. (original) The spout assembly of claim 10, wherein the bridge includes an aperture adapted to facilitate a pressure differential to bias the closing body against the bridge unless the spout assembly is tilted beyond a predetermined angle.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The spout assembly of claim 9, wherein the spout adapter further includes at least one adapter internal sidewall including a first adapter sidewall portion with a first adapter cross-sectional dimension adapted to receive a portion of the pressure activated control valve, a second adapter sidewall portion with a second adapter cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first adapter cross-sectional dimension, and an adapter location between the first and second adapter sidewall portions, wherein the adapter transition location provides for the change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first adapter sidewall portion and the second adapter sidewall portion, the first adapter sidewall portion includes a length at least partially defining a substantially straight adapter liquid flow path, wherein the substantially straight adapter liquid flow path extends through the adapter transition location without the adapter transition location changing the first portion of the substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The spout assembly of claim 8, wherein the spout adapter further includes at least one adapter internal sidewall including a first adapter sidewall portion with a first adapter cross-sectional dimension adapted to receive a portion of the pressure activated control valve, a second adapter sidewall portion with a second adapter cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first adapter cross-sectional dimension, and an adapter transition location between the first and second adapter sidewall portions, wherein the adapter

transition location provides for the change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first adapter sidewall portion and the second adapter sidewall portion, the first adapter sidewall portion includes a length at least partially defining a substantially straight adapter liquid flow path, wherein the substantially straight adapter liquid flow path extends through the adapter transition location without the adapter transition location changing the first portion of the substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 14. (original) The spout assembly of claim 13, further comprising a fluid tube disposed in the interior passage of the structural conduit and in fluid communication with the pressure activated control valve, wherein the second adapter cross-sectional dimension is adapted to receive a first end portion of the fluid tube, and wherein a second end portion of the fluid tube is adapted to dispense liquid adjacent the second end portion of the structural conduit.

Claim 15. (currently amended) A spout assembly for dispensing liquid from a nozzle, comprising:

- a) a structural conduit including:
 - i) a first end portion for attaching relative to a nozzle body and a second end portion for dispensing liquid;
 - ii) an interior passage providing an internal flow path from the first end portion to the second end portion; and
 - iii) at least one internal sidewall, the internal sidewall including a first sidewall portion with a first cross-sectional dimension, a second sidewall portion with a second cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first cross-sectional dimension, and a transition location between the first and second sidewall portions, wherein the transition location provides for ~~the~~ an asymmetric change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first sidewall portion

and the second sidewall portion, wherein the internal sidewall is adapted to substantially prevent pooling of liquid being dispensed from the nozzle.

Claim 16. (original) The spout assembly of claim 15, wherein the first sidewall portion includes a length that at least partially defines a substantially straight liquid flow path, wherein the substantially straight liquid flow path extends through the transition location without the transition location changing the substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The spout assembly of claim 15, wherein the first sidewall portion includes a length that at least partially defines a first substantially straight liquid flow path, the second sidewall portion includes a length that at least partially defines a second substantially straight liquid flow path that is oriented at an obtuse interior angle with respect to the first substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 18. (currently amended) The spout assembly of claim 17, wherein a curved portion of the interior sidewall provides the transition between the substantially straight liquid flow paths of the first and second sidewall portions.

Claim 19. (currently amended) The spout assembly of claim 18, wherein a corresponding imaginary tangential line extends through each point along the curved portion, each imaginary tangential line extending at an interior angle with respect to the substantially straight liquid flow path of the first portion in the range from about 180° to about the obtuse internal angle.

Claim 20. (currently amended) A The spout assembly of claim 19 for dispensing liquid from a nozzle, comprising:

a) a structural conduit including:

i) a first end portion for attaching relative to a nozzle body and a

second end portion for dispensing liquid;

ii) an interior passage providing an internal flow path from the first end portion to the second end portion; and

iii) at least one internal sidewall, the internal sidewall including a first sidewall portion with a first cross-sectional dimension, a second sidewall portion with a second cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first cross-sectional dimension, and a transition location between the first and second sidewall portions, wherein the transition location provides for the change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first sidewall portion and the second sidewall portion, wherein the internal sidewall is adapted to substantially prevent pooling of liquid being dispensed from the nozzle, wherein the first sidewall portion includes a length that at least partially defines a first substantially straight liquid flow path, the second sidewall portion includes a length that at least partially defines a second substantially straight liquid flow path that is oriented at an obtuse interior angle with respect to the first substantially straight liquid flow path, wherein a curved portion of the interior sidewall provides the transition between the substantially straight liquid flow paths of the first and second sidewall portions, wherein a corresponding imaginary tangential line extends through each point along the curved portion, each imaginary tangential line extending at an interior angle with respect to the substantially straight liquid flow path of the first portion in the range from about 180° to about the obtuse internal angle, wherein the interior angle of each tangential line is successively smaller along the curved portion from the first sidewall portion to the second sidewall portion.

Claim 21. (original) The spout assembly of claim 15, further comprising a spout adapter mounted with respect to the first end portion of the structural conduit, the spout adapter including a pressure activated control valve adapted to permit flow of liquid into the spout assembly from a nozzle at a predetermined liquid pressure.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A The spout assembly of claim 21 for dispensing liquid from a nozzle, comprising:

a) a structural conduit including:

i) a first end portion for attaching relative to a nozzle body and a second end portion for dispensing liquid;

ii) an interior passage providing an internal flow path from the first end portion to the second end portion; and

iii) at least one internal sidewall, the internal sidewall including a first sidewall portion with a first cross-sectional dimension, a second sidewall portion with a second cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first cross-sectional dimension, and a transition location between the first and second sidewall portions, wherein the transition location provides for the change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first sidewall portion and the second sidewall portion, wherein the internal sidewall is adapted to substantially prevent pooling of liquid being dispensed from the nozzle

b) a spout adapter mounted with respect to the first end portion of the structural conduit, the spout adapter including a pressure activated control valve adapted to permit flow of liquid into the spout assembly from a nozzle at a predetermined liquid pressure, wherein the spout adapter further comprises a venturi channel and an attitude device in fluid communication with the venturi channel, wherein the attitude device comprises a closing body adapted to close an opening of the venturi channel upon tilting of the spout assembly beyond a predetermined angle.

Claim 23. (original) The spout assembly of claim 22, wherein the attitude device further comprises a bridge to trap the closing body in an interior area of the spout adapter.

Claim 24. (original) The spout assembly of claim 23, wherein the bridge includes an aperture adapted to facilitate a pressure differential to bias the closing body against the bridge unless the spout assembly is tilted beyond a predetermined angle.

Claim 25. (original) The spout assembly of claim 22, wherein the spout adapter further includes at least one adapter internal sidewall including a first adapter sidewall portion with a first adapter cross-sectional dimension adapted to receive a portion of the pressure activated control valve, a second adapter sidewall portion with a second adapter cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first adapter cross-sectional dimension, and an adapter transition location between the first and second adapter sidewall portions, wherein the adapter transition location provides for the change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first adapter sidewall portion and the second adapter sidewall portion, the first adapter sidewall portion includes a length at least partially defining a substantially straight adapter liquid flow path, wherein the substantially straight adapter liquid flow path extends through the adapter transition location without the adapter transition location changing the substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 26. (original) The spout assembly of claim 21, wherein the spout adapter further includes at least one internal adapter sidewall including a first adapter sidewall portion with a first adapter cross-sectional dimension adapted to receive a portion of the pressure activated control valve, a second adapter sidewall portion with a second adapter cross-sectional dimension that is smaller than the first adapter cross-sectional dimension, and an adapter transition location between the first and second adapter sidewall portions, wherein the adapter transition location provides for the change in cross-sectional dimensions between the first adapter sidewall portion and the second adapter sidewall portion, the first adapter sidewall portion includes a length at least partially defining a substantially straight adapter liquid flow path, wherein the substantially straight adapter liquid flow path extends through the adapter transition location without the

adapter transition location changing the substantially straight liquid flow path.

Claim 27. (original) The spout assembly of claim 26, further comprising a fluid tube disposed in the interior passage of the structural conduit and in fluid communication with the pressure activated control valve, wherein the second adapter cross-sectional dimension is adapted to receive a first end portion of the fluid tube, and wherein a second end portion of the fluid tube is adapted to dispense liquid adjacent the second end portion of the structural conduit.

Claim 28. (currently amended) A spout assembly for dispensing liquid from a nozzle and movable between a storage orientation and a dispensing orientation, comprising:

- a) a structural conduit including:
 - i) a first end portion for attaching relative to a nozzle body and a second end portion for dispensing liquid;
 - ii) an interior passage providing an internal liquid flow path in a general direction from the first end portion to the second end portion; and
 - iii) at least one internal sidewall defining the internal flow path running from the first end portion to the second end portion, each of the first end portion and the second end portion having generally cylindrical configurations with a diameter of the internal flow path in the second end being reduced relative to the diameter of the internal flow path in the first end; and
- b) a transition portion positioned intermediate the first end portion and the second end portion for reducing the cross-sectional area of the internal flow path therebetween, the internal liquid flow path in the transition portion being asymmetrically tapered to alter the cross-sectional area of the internal liquid flow path from a first inside diameter of the liquid flow

path adjacent an inlet end of the transition portion to a second inside diameter of the liquid flow path adjacent an outlet end of the transition portion, a lower inside surface of the liquid flow path in the transition portion being flattened relative to an opposed upper inside surface of the transition portion so that, when the spout is in a dispensing orientation, the lowest point in any cross-sectional portion of the flow path through the transition portion is not at a substantially higher elevation than a line connecting the lowest points of the flow path at the respective upstream portions of the first end portion and the transition portion.

Claim 29. (original) The spout assembly of claim 28, wherein the spout assembly further comprises a pressure activated liquid control valve that is positioned upstream of the transition portion.

Claim 30. (withdrawn) The spout assembly of claim 28, wherein the spout assembly further comprises an open-ended cavity formed proximate to the second end portion of the structural conduit, the cavity being at least partially circumferentially disposed about the internal flow path and operative to capture liquid flowing down the internal sidewall toward the second end portion of the structural conduit.

Claim 31. (withdrawn) The spout assembly of claim 30, the open-ended cavity opens in a direction generally opposite to the direction of the internal liquid flow path.

Claim 32. (withdrawn) The spout assembly of claim 30, wherein the cavity is opened in a radially inward direction.

Claim 33. (withdrawn) The spout assembly of claim 30, further comprising a ferrule disposed at least partially in the second end portion of the structural conduit, wherein the ferrule at least partially defines the open-ended cavity.

Claims 34-63. (canceled)

Claim 64. (withdrawn) A spout assembly for dispensing liquid from a nozzle, comprising:

a) a structural conduit including:

i) a first end portion for attaching relative to a nozzle body and a second end portion for dispensing liquid;

ii) an interior passage providing an internal liquid flow path in a general direction from the first end portion to the second end portion; and

iii) at least one internal sidewall at least partially defining the internal liquid flow path running from the first end portion to the second end portion, each of the first end portion and the second end portion having generally cylindrical configurations with a diameter of the internal flow path in the second end portion being reduced relative to the diameter of the internal flow path in the first end portion; and

b) an open-ended cavity formed proximate to the second end portion of the structural conduit, the cavity being at least partially circumferentially disposed about the internal flow path and being operative to capture liquid flowing down at least one sidewall toward the second end of the structural conduit.

Claim 65. (withdrawn) The nozzle of claim 64, wherein the open-ended cavity is at least partially formed by the internal sidewall of the structural conduit.

Claim 66. (withdrawn) The nozzle of claim 64, further comprising a ferrule attached with respect to the second end portion of the structural conduit, wherein the open-ended cavity is at least partially formed by the ferrule.

Claim 67. (withdrawn) The nozzle of claim 66, wherein open-ended cavity is further at least partially formed by the internal sidewall of the structural conduit.

Claim 68. (withdrawn) The nozzle of claim 64, wherein the open-ended cavity opens in a direction generally opposite to the direction of the internal liquid flow path.

Claims 69-79. (canceled)